THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1871.

The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. 24. CHICAGO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1871. NO. 265.

FOREIGN.

A Protracted Struggle in France Predicted by Minister Washburne.

Bombardment of D'Issy and Vanves by the Versailles Army.

The Communists Not Permitted by the Germans to Occupy the Evacuated Forts.

Statement of the Situation by President Thiers.

The Proposed Hatch Excise Withdrawn by the British Government.

FRANCE.

DISPATCHES FROM MINISTER WASHBURNE.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Dispatches received from Minister Washburne concerning affairs in France state that the people are anxious for peace. They do not appear to be disposed to attempt to bring terms out of the present crisis. They do not propose to be dictated to by Germany, and the indications are that the civil war will continue until the insurgents are utterly vanquished.

FORT ISSY AND VANVES BOMBARDED.

VERSAILLES, April 25.—A heavy cannonade from the batteries of the Versailles army at Montrouge, Clamart, and Chatillon, was opened on the forts of Issy, Vanves, and Vesinet, and the earthworks at the Point du Jour.

Prisoners report that the Communists have lost the greater portion of their artillery. The Communists have also lost heavily in the recent sorties. The Versailles troops have suffered but little.

The French government will not permit the Germans to occupy the evacuated forts.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WITHOUT CREDIT.

The Official Journal to-day announces that the Government has no funds, and calls upon the people to hold certain of the forts named, Paris, because it has no credit.

Signed, Jules Favre, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Pouyer-Quertier, Minister of Finance; Dufaure, Minister of Justice; Jules Simon, Minister of Public Instruction; and Ernest Picard, Minister of the Interior.

GOVERNMENT CIRCULAR.

The Official Journal publishes a circular, bearing date April 24, in which he says: "On the 3d inst. the people were deceived by the Communists, who, by means of false placards, caused the report to be circulated that the Versailles troops had fraternized with the Federals. Now, on the 24th inst., they have resorted to a red flag, from the enemy. The great object with them will soon be exhausted."

NO STATE OF SIEGE NOR CURFEW.

LONDON, April 26.—A dispatch from Dispatch from Versailles, dated yesterday, says that the Cabinet has decided not to declare a state of siege, nor to establish a curfew. Both measures would have had no effect upon the insurgents.

HEAVY CANNONADE.

A dispatch from Versailles 25-27, says a Provisional Government has been established in Paris.

THIERS TAKES THE OFFENSIVE.

THIERS HAS MARSHAL MACMAHON'S ARMY.

LONDON, April 26.—Dispatches received at Charing Cross this morning announce that Thiers has assumed the offensive against the insurgents.

THE LAST CONSUL.

LONDON, April 26.—A dispatch says the Prussian batteries at Versailles fired 300 shells into Paris yesterday.

PARIS AGAIN BOMBARDED.

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THE TENDENCY OF THE TIMES.

Revolutions! If you will look at history, which are the revolutions that are fearful? Not civil wars, are not so destructive, nor so fatal to public liberty as national wars, nor those which are accomplished by the gradual perversion of law or trade, or other organic and constitutional changes. The weakness of human governments generally is, at best, to relish the fruit of genius, as in the greed and selfishness of the aristocracies of Europe; instead of administering the republic may be made practically a republic without destroying the dynasty. Written constitutions have been regarded as affording the highest form of protection to the country, and the most perfect restraint upon usurpation. Yet written constitutions have never arrested an act of despotism in Europe, or stayed the despot one moment in the execution of any crime that public opinion would sanction, or military power could enforce. Our own constitution has been regarded by the world as a model of strength, holding the balance of safety by and of popular defiance so delicately and so equally poised as to admit of no possibility of usurpation on the one hand, or violent patriotism on the other. Scholars, historians, and orators have repeated the praises of the American Constitution, and have so magnified the wisdom and sagacity of its authors that their names have become historical, because of their identification with the great charter of popular freedom and free government.

The careful observer will, however, decide, upon a review of the history of this country, that the success of our constitution and form of government has been due to the intelligence and watchfulness of the people, rather than to any form of words in the written instrument. A violation of the constitution is usually preceded by agitation with the crime of regicide in other lands. The great prosperity of the country and the purity of the government have been the result of the jealous and unfailing vigilance with which the American people have watched public affairs, and have dismissed scrupulous fidelity to the common chart of liberty and right. If, during the past, there has been an Executive elevated to his chief seat of the law, and there to overstep the line by which his authority was limited, we have had a vigilant Congress to intervene and forbid the transgression; if we have had a Congress disposed to usurp a jurisdiction and exercise functions not legitimately its own, we have had the Executive and the judiciary to maintain the protection of the constitution. The institution of slavery began among its supporters an unceasing anxiety to preserve, in its letter and spirit, the constitution, in all things not pertaining to slavery, and to pervert all that related to that to the support and defense of the atrocious system. In their efforts to preserve slavery, the Democratic party weakened the constitution for the time being, and finally sought to destroy it.

The civil war, unfortunately, did more than throw off the chains of slavery. As the institution of the Cavaliers destroyed the stern rule of the Puritans, and in doing so made profligacy and immorality as general as they were exceptional before, so the destruction of the rigid rules of constitutional construction by the pro-slavery party has been followed by a relaxation of constitutional restraint and of respect for the supreme law that is most dangerous to the country. The Constitution of the United States has no value or saving power except that which is imparted to it by a faithful adherence to its provisions. When the Government of the United States shall cease to regulate its conduct and its administration of affairs by the letter and in the spirit of the constitution, the safeguards of liberty, secured, both in form and substance, by that instrument to all the subjects or citizens of the republic, will be lost. The moment that individuals or parties, then the constitution will cease to be any protection to the nation or restraint upon government.

The tendency of the time is to repudiate the constitution in every form, from the highest to the lowest. Congress, State Governments, municipal bodies, boards having specific duties to perform—every agency that is an instrument of any grant of power is warranted by law, not justified, makes any plea, and which, if persevered in, will convert our government, even under its present form, into despotism or anarchy. We have no fear that the people will ever allow either of these consummations to overtake them. But, if they would not, they must stop the beginning of the overture.

THE DISEASE OF McGINNIS.

It will be remembered that the intelligent scene-shifter of Ford's Theatre, in Washington, here whence that Wilkes Booth, after shooting President Lincoln, leaped upon the stage, and exclaimed, "He's sick; send for McGinnis." History, ever ready to convey credit into deserving hands in Latin phrase for this sample of plain, English, and, under the circumstances, Mr. McGinnis did not think it worth while to oppose. He has thought better of it since, however, and now, after a lapse of six years, has put his name in type as a candidate for the White House. Mr. McGinnis claims to be the rightful heir of that much-coveted piece of property, and has made two attempts to take possession; first, through the courts, and, afterward, at a general election. Through the latter Democratic Mission itself, strategically availing itself of the temporary absence of General Grant and staff of the War.

The grounds of Mr. McGinnis' claim are not stated in the dispatches which are patriotically waiting on this important matter. However that may be, Mr. McGinnis has, it seems, been thwarted in his high purpose. Some wretched relation of the law has clapped the finger of authority upon Mr. McGinnis' triumphant brow, to the ample regret, Kossuth, we submit, in rather rough way to head off Presidential hopefuls.

While Mr. McGinnis will find few American citizens who will gainsay him the privilege to be the right (?) claimant to the Presidency, they will nevertheless hesitate to adjudge him a lunatic merely because he wants to be President, and in trying to take any means, fair or foul, wise or foolish, to accomplish that end. Our political annals are full of statesmen who have died or worried themselves into imbecility because of their inordinate ambition to attain the Presidential chair. The writer is even now with such well-known statesmen as the friends of Fenimore Cooper intend to get to be vaunted for nearly two years. A New York journal publishes, recently, a list of ghost seventy such claimants, all of whom, we suppose, are liable to a writ de lunatico inquirendo, and to be jugged pending the inquiry. Old and Indiana alone will furnish a round dozen candidates for the mad-house, according to this precedent, and New York as many more. They are all mad, if the intense desire to occupy the White House be madness. The only difference between one and the other seems to be a difference in the degree of infatuation; the Greeleys and Daniel Pratts, and McGinnises, and Woodhulls, having the worst symptoms, until, decisive, go into the ward of "incorrigibles," and be put in "stalls" jackets, while the milder cases would be only jugged in "low stringent treatment." What is most of all, the disease is contagious, and one sees are breaking out every day. Would it not be well for [illegible] to adopt some [illegible] of an [illegible] to administer for [illegible] these afflicted? It [illegible] would [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] Mr. McGinnis, and [illegible] with [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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ENSUING IMPROVEMENTS.

Estimates of Expenditures in Public Works for 1871.

Nearly Two Millions Recommended to be Appropriated.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS,
CHICAGO, April 25, 1871.

To the Common Council:

Gentlemen: In pursuance of the provisions of the ordinance passed by the Common Council on the 20th day of March, 1871, entitled "An ordinance providing for the organization of the Board of Public Works, and defining its duties," the Board of Public Works have the honor to present to your honorable body the following estimates of the amounts required for the various purposes hereinafter mentioned, for the year 1871:

[Table: Estimates for Sewers, Bridges, Streets, Sidewalks, Crosswalks, Engineering, Contingencies, Repairs, Lighting, Water Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Health Department, Public Buildings, Public Parks, Public Schools, Interest on Water Loan, Interest on Sewer Loan, Interest on Bridge Loan, Interest on Special Assessments, Interest on Funded Debt, Interest on Temporary Loans, Sinking Fund, Redemption of Water Bonds, Redemption of Sewer Bonds, Redemption of Bridge Bonds, Redemption of Special Assessments, Redemption of Funded Debt, Redemption of Temporary Loans, Miscellaneous, Total for services, Chicago River Improvement, Chicago and Western Indiana Railroad, Chicago and Northwestern Railway, Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, Chicago and Pacific Railroad, Chicago and Great Eastern Railway, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne Railroad, Chicago and Alton Railroad, Illinois Central Railroad, Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, Michigan Central Railroad, Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Chicago Railway, Chicago and Atlantic Railway, Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad, Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, Chicago, Alton and St. Louis Railroad, Chicago and Southwestern Railroad, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway, Chicago and Iowa Railroad, Chicago, Clinton and Dubuque Railroad, Chicago, Fort Wayne and Western Railroad, Chicago and Canada Southern Railway, Chicago, Pekin and Southwestern Railway, Chicago, Madison and Northern Railroad, Chicago, Milwaukee and Northern Railroad, Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad, Chicago, Fond du Lac and Lake Superior Railroad, Chicago, Lake Shore and Western Railway, Chicago, Rock Island and Northern Railroad, Chicago, Dubuque and Minnesota Railroad, Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad, Chicago, Fond du Lac and Lake Superior Railroad, Chicago, Lake Shore and Western Railway, Chicago, Rock Island and Northern Railroad, Chicago, Dubuque and Minnesota Railroad

UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI.

Third Annual Meeting and Banquet at the Palmer House on Last Evening.

Toasts, Speeches, Entrance, Songs, a Poem, and General Enjoyment.

The third annual meeting and banquet of the Union College Alumni Association of the Northwest was held on last evening at the Palmer House, a very large delegation of resident alumni being present.

The meeting was convened in the large parlors of the hotel at 7 P. M., Hon. W. H. King presiding.

Charles L. Barnes was elected Secretary pro tem., and the following officers were appointed by the secretary of the Association, the regular officers being absent:

Vice President—H. A. Austin, class of 1867.

Secretary—E. A. Austin, class of 1870.

Executive Committee—Prof. Frank W. Gunsaulus, class of 1867; Prof. Frank E. Wing, class of 1867; C. B. Gibson, class of 1868; H. L. Boltwood, class of 1869; Prof. E. Wilkes, class of 1869; C. L. Barnes, class of 1870; H. Queen.

THE CITY IN BRIEF.

Women's Homes.

The directors of the Women's Home have issued a circular of the practical working of that institution, and the present enormous expenditure connected therewith. There are at present 117 boarders in the Home. The price of board per week is $3.75, double which, if not provided, according to agreement, by the friends of the boarder, is charged. The daily average number of boarders for the month of March was 115. The receipts for the month were $1,800, and the expenditures $2,000. The deficiency is made up by the ladies. The Home is free to the widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors. The directors call upon the people to aid in relieving the financial embarrassment of the institution, and suggest that a fair be held for the benefit of the Home. The ladies of the Board of Directors are Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. E. King, Mrs. S. Austin, Mrs. E. Hall, and Mrs. J. H. Dunham.

Rev. A. D. Eddy, D. D., class of 1847, spoke briefly of the committee now in session at Washington, of which he is a member, and which has been appointed to memorialize Congress in favor of the passage of a bill for the relief of the sufferers by the great fire. The committee will probably report a bill which will ask of Congress a loan of several millions of dollars, which will be repaid in ten years, and which will be secured by a mortgage on the burned district. The committee will also ask for an appropriation to build a new Custom-House and Post-Office. The committee will report to-day, and will probably be successful in its mission.

Rev. E. F. Thurber, Superintendent of the Home for Friendless Children, moved that the thanks of the meeting be tendered to the Trustees for the use of the auditorium of the Home. He referred to the great work of the institution, and the necessity for its enlargement. The motion was carried unanimously.

Prof. Gunsaulus, Secretary of the Board of Examiners, read the following report:

The examinations of the Chicago Theological Seminary will take place to-day. The following gentlemen have been appointed by the Board of Trustees to conduct the examinations: Rev. Dr. Patton, Rev. Dr. Goodwin, Rev. Dr. Bartlett, Rev. Dr. Hatfield, Rev. Dr. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Goodell, Rev. Dr. Holbrook, Rev. Dr. Fullerton, Rev. Dr. Thurber, Rev. Dr. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Williston Fisher, Rev. Dr. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Patton, Rev. Dr. Holbrook, Rev. Dr. Goodell, Rev. Dr. Thurber, Rev. Dr. Wilson, and Rev. Dr. Goodwin.

Prof. Gunsaulus.

The report was received and laid upon the table.

Prof. Gunsaulus, Secretary of the Board of Examiners, reported that the examinations of the Theological Seminary would commence this afternoon at 2 o'clock, and would continue for three days. The following gentlemen were appointed